

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 NATO 08660 101027Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----046096 101034Z /15

O 101018Z SEP 77
FM USMISSION NATO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 5798
SECDEF WASHDC IMMEDIATE
INFO ALL NATO CAPITALS
USNMR SHAPE BE

S E C R E T NATO 08660

EXDIS

MILITARY ADDRESSEES HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, NATO, MNUC, NPG
SUBJECT: SEPTEMBER 13 NPG CONSULTATIONS PRESS POLICY
BEGIN SUMMARY: THE DUTCH HAVE URGED THAT THERE BE A
PRESS RELEASE FOLLOWING TING. WE PROVIDE BELOW A DRAFT PRESS RELEASE
FOR
WASHINGTON'S CONSIDERATION. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE,
IF POSSIBLE BY SEPTEMBER 12, ON PRESS POLICY FOR NPG
MEETING. END SUMMARY.

1. DUTCH DCM BUWALDA CALLED ON US SEPTEMBER 9 TO URGE
THAT THE US PREPARE A DRAFT PRESS RELEASE FOR THE
SEPTEMBER 13 NPG MEETING. BUWALDA NOTED THAT THE DUTCH
FOREIGN MINISTER HAD TOLD THE PRESS THAT HE URGED THE US
TO CONSULT WITH THE ALLIES REGARDING THE ER/RB WEAPON.
THE FOREIGN MINISTER MADE THIS STATEMENT WITH THE
KNOWLEDGE THAT CONSULTATIONS WERE SCHEDULED SEPTEMBER 13,
AND BUWALDA BELIEVED DUTCH AUTHORITIES WOULD NOT BE ABLE
TO AVOID INFORMING THE PRESS THAT THE CONSULTATIONS WERE
HELD. IN FACT, THE HAGUE INFORMED HIM SEPTEMBER 9 THAT
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DUTCH AUTHORITIES WERE ABOUT TO TELL PARLIAMENT THAT
CONSULTATIONS WOULD TAKE PLACE SEPTEMBER 13. HOWEVER,
BUWALDA TOLD THE HAGUE TO HOLD OFF ON PROVIDING THIS
INFORMATION TO THE PARLIAMENT OR THE PRESS. BUWALDA
SAID HE HAD DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH THE NATO PRESS
SPOKESMAN, WHO AGREED WITH HIM THAT THE FACT OF THE
CONSULTATION ON THE 13TH WOULD PROBABLY LEAK. THE PRESS

SPOKESMAN NOTED, HOWEVER, THE US DELEGATION HAD TOLD HIM NOT TO RELEASE ANY INFORMATION ON THIS SUBJECT.

2. WE CONFIRMED TO BUWALDA THAT WE HAD INDEED TAKEN THIS LINE IN RESPONSE TO A QUERY FROM THE PRESS SPOKESMAN. WE DID NOT WISH TO PUBLICIZE THE CONSULTATIONS AT NATO WITHOUT SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO DO SO. WE SAID WE WOULD REPORT BUWALDA'S DEMAR CHE, BUT REQUESTED HIM TO IMPRESS ON HIS AUTHORITIES THE DESIRABILITY OF NOT TAKING ANY STEPS THAT WOULD MAKE PUBLICITY INEVITABLE, UNTIL WE HAD GUIDANCE ON THIS ISSUE AND UNTIL THE MATTER HAD ALSO BEEN CONSIDERED BY OTHER NPG DELEGATIONS.

3. COMMENT: WE BELIEVE THAT THE QUESTION OF A PRESS RELEASE IS AN ISSUE THAT CAN ONLY BE RESOLVED IN CONSULTATION WITH THE OTHER NPG MEMBERS. SOME MAY PREFER TO AVOID ANY KIND OF PUBLICITY AT THIS TIME, PARTICULARLY IF THEIR GOVERNMENTS ARE NOT YET PREPARED TO TAKE A POSITION. WE PROPOSE RAISING THIS QUESTION WITH THEM AS EARLY AS POSSIBLE ON 12 SEPTEMBER IN ORDER TO ALLOW TIME FOR INSTRUCTIONS FROM CAPITALS. WE SUGGEST PROVIDING TO NPG MEMBERS SEPTEMBER 12 A DRAFT PRESS RELEASE ALONG THE FOLLOWING LINES FOR POSSIBLE APPROVAL AT THE NPG MEETING FOR RELEASE 13 SEPTEMBER.

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A DELEGATION FROM THE UNITED STATES TODAY MET WITH MEMBERS OF NATO'S NUCLEAR PLANNING GROUP TO DISCUSS RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FIELD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS, INCLUDING ENHANCED RADIATION/REDUCED BLAST WEAPONS. MEMBERS OF THE NPG HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION THE MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION AND TO EXPRESS THEIR VIEWS ON THESE ISSUES. THEY EXPRESSED THEIR APPRECIATION FOR THE US PRESENTATION AS A CONTINUATION OF THE ALLIANCE DIALOGUE ON THESE SUBJECTS. THE MEMBERS OF THE US DELEGATION INCLUDED (NAMES TO BE INSERTED).

END TEXT

4. IN THE EVENT ALL NPG MEMBERS DO NOT AGREE TO ISSUANCE OF A RELEASE, WE COULD RESPOND TO ANY PRESS QUERIES BY SAYING SIMPLY THAT CONSULTATIONS ON ALL MATTERS AFFECTING COOPERATION WITH OUR NATO ALLIES IS CONTINUOUS AND THAT THE US HAS ALREADY NOTED ITS INTENTION TO CONSULT WITH THE ALLIES ON NUCLEAR WEAPONS ISSUES OF MUTUAL INTEREST.

5. ACTION REQUESTED: GUIDANCE.

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